THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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CITY OF SAN DIEGO MAYOR DICK MURPHY COMMISSIONS THE CITY'S FIRST "ENERGY INDEPENDENT" MUNICIPAL BUILDING UTILIZING SOLAR POWER

City Uses Renewable Energy to Pursue Energy Independence

SAN DIEGO, CA– City of San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy will officially convert the City's Environmental Services Operations Station administration building to operate on solar power during a press conference on Friday, October 18, 2002 at 11 a.m. This will be the City's first use of photovoltaic (PV) panels that will generate enough energy to operate a municipal building.

"We are making great strides toward achieving my goal number nine, energy independence for the city of San Diego," Mayor Dick Murphy said. "Part of goal number nine is developing sources of energy that will not damage our environment. These photovoltaic panels, designed as two carports over the Operations Station's administration building parking lot, are a perfect example of technology that takes advantage of San Diego's sunny weather for the clean production of electricity. "

The newly installed PV array consists of 468 panels and each panel generates approximately 140 watts. The entire structure will produce approximately 91,950 kilowatt-hours per year to power the administration building which currently uses 87,000 kilowatt-hours of energy per year. The City will save $16,551 annually in energy expenses that would have been used to cover energy costs of this building.

The reduction in energy used from the grid will lower the amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) that is emitted in the air annually by 94 tons, which is equivalent to the emissions produced from 23 cars on the road today or the amount of CO_2 absorbed by about 26 acres of trees in one year.

The energy generated from the PV panels will also make this administration building the City's first "net metered" facility which is a billing agreement with San Diego Gas & Electric. On an annual basis this array will produce approximately the same amount of energy the building will utilize in one

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year. This is referred to a "net zero" facility.

To fund the PV installation the City received $263,925 from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The total cost of the project is $681,415 but with the additional funding the total cost to the City is $417,490.

"Upfront costs to install solar panels are significant and the payback period on a project like ours can be as long as 25 years, but I believe it is a wise use of City dollars," said Murphy. "There is a limited supply of fossil fuels and burning these fuels can have enormous long-term damaging impacts on our air quality. When you measure potential costs associated with managing future health problems that could arise from decreased air quality to the dollars we spend now to install this type of photovoltaic system that will not produce harmful emissions, it's clear this investment will be less costly and have huge long-term benefits."

Solar energy is new to the City but utilizing renewable energy sources and energy-efficient technologies is not. Between 1994 and 2001, the City has developed energy-efficient projects and improved transportation efficiencies that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 12 million tons.

The City's other projects that utilize energy-efficient technologies or use renewable energy and have received national recognition are: the retrofit of the Ridgehaven Green Building "Demonstration" Project which was the first building in the nation to receive the Energy Star Label from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy; the City's adoption of the US Green Building Council's (USGBC), Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Silver" Level Building Certification; the conversion of methane gas emitted from the City's Miramar Landfill to enough energy to operate a City building throughout the year; the production of electricity from a hydroelectric system and conversion of methane gas at the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (this system produces enough electricity to power the entire facility and any excess electricity is sold to local energy utility); and the conversion of approximately 70 trash trucks from diesel fuel to cleaner burning liquefied natural gas.

The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department is charged with refuse collection and disposal, recycling and environmentally sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs. The Department also oversees the City's management of energy use and explores innovative options for energy independence. For more information on recycling or Environmental Services, visit the department's web site at http://www.sandiego/environmental-services/.

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